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MR. CHRISTIAN HEURICH

AND HIS MANSION

BY

MILTON RUBINCAM

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MILTON RUBINCAM

One hundred and twenty years ago, in the little German village of Haina, a young mother wrote in her combination hymnbook and family Bible: "*Es ist mir ein Söhnchen geboren 12 September 1842—Christian Ferdinand Heurich*".[1] The young mother, as she penned these words, could have little realized that in the course of the next century her "little son", Christian Ferdinand—he was afterwards to drop the middle name—would achieve wealth and fame beyond her wildest dreams.

Christian Heurich was the finest type of the new American citizen. He came to the United States as a young man to seek his fortune. Through experience and study in the breweries of Europe and America he mastered the techniques of his chosen occupation, until the beers produced at his huge plant in Washington were rated second to none. His business operations netted him a handsome fortune and at his death, one hundred and two years after his mother recorded his birth, he was one of the wealthiest residents in the Nation's Capital.

Christian Heurich was much interested in the history of his homeland, but he was prouder of his American citizenship. He was not content just to receive honors at the hands of his fellow-citizens. He also made notable contributions to the development of Washington institutions. One writer commented that "he was, in effect, an institution in the Capital City of the country of his adoption". It was "his humanity that made him beloved even by strangers who never

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The author is greatly indebted to Mr. Christian Heurich, Jr., for information concerning his father; his niece, Mrs. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr., who graciously made available to the writer her collection of clippings relating to her grandfather, Christian Heurich, Sr.; and Mr. Aubrey Starke, of Washington, D. C., who copied the Heurich-Jacobsen-Keyser tombstone inscriptions in Oak Hill Cemetery, Georgetown.

[1] *The Times-Herald*, Washington, D. C., September 12, 1944, p. 8. This book, the *Neues Römhildisches Gesang-Buch*, printed at Römhild by Johann Georg Bruckners, in 1794, is in Mrs. Evans' possession.

met him face to face, felt the grasp of his hands or heard the sound of his voice.... Mr. Heurich accumulated a profound knowledge by which an honorable civilization exists.... He sought goals that were creditable in themselves. What he contributed to the different civic and charitable organizations in which he was interested went far beyond his support and co-operation. He set a helpful example".[2]

The intense patriotism which Mr. Heurich felt and his gratitude to the land of his adoption which had bestowed so many blessings on him and his family were exemplified by his remark to a reporter after his return from a warmongering Germany in 1939: "About the most beautiful sight you'll ever see, young fellow, is the American flag".[3]

To understand Christian Heurich and his interests, one must know something about the country that gave him birth. Haina is near the town of Römhild, in the former duchy of Saxe-Meiningen-and-Hildburghausen (*Sachsen-Meiningen-und-Hildburghausen*), in the historical division known as Thuringia (*Thüringen*).

Fifteen hundred years ago Thuringia was a part of the Frankish realm. It had a turbulent career as a duchy, a possession of the early Saxons, and a principality under the Holy Roman Empire. One of its most romantic rulers was Landgrave Ludwig IV (1217–1227), whose wife was the accomplished and celebrated St. Elisabeth, daughter of a Hungarian king. Eventually, in the 15th century, it passed to the rule of the Saxon dynasty, the House of Wettin. Thuringia was so divided and subdivided by the time of Mr. Heurich's birth that it closely resembled a patchwork quilt. The Thuringian states in the middle of the 19th century were the grand duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, the duchies of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Saxe-Meiningen-and-Hildburghausen, and Saxe-Altenburg, and the principalities of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, Reuss-Greiz, and Reuss-Schleiz-Gera.[4]

During the course of its long history Thuringia included many other states. Christian Heurich took especial pride in the fact that his little area was once a part of the old countship of Henneberg, created in 1037. In the German breakfast room in the basement of the Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion are figures of Hermann

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[2] Editorial, "Christian Heurich, Sr.", *The Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., Thursday, March 8, 1945, p. A-10.

[3] *The Washington Post*, Saturday, September 12, 1942, p. A-4 (story of Mr. Heurich's 100th birthday anniversary).

[4] *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 13th edition (1926), vol. 26, pp. 901–902 (article, "Thuringia").

VII of Henneberg (died 1465) and his wife, Johanna of Nassau, and of Hermann VIII of Henneberg (died 1535) and his wife, Elisabeth of Brandenburg-Hohenzollern. Outside, in the hallway between the German breakfast room and the room now occupied as a library by the National Genealogical Society, are small effigies of Georg I of Henneberg (died July 25, 1465) and his second wife, Johannetta of Nassau-Weilburg. These illustrious lords and ladies, the ancestral sovereigns of the Heurich family who greet us as we reach the basement of the Mansion, sleep eternally in the *Stiftskirche* at Römhild, their capital city.[5]

The duchy of Saxe-Meiningen was founded in 1681 by a son of Ernst the Pious, Duke of Saxe-Gotha. Through the succeeding centuries its boundaries were enlarged, a really important acquisition being received in 1825—Hildburghausen, its name being changed officially to Saxe-Meiningen-and-Hildburghausen. The reigning duke in 1842, when "ein Söhnchen" was born to his humble subjects, the Heurichs, was Bernhard Erich Freund, whose several titles included that of Princely Count of Henneberg.[6]

The dynasty was dethroned in 1918, as a result of the debacle of World War I. The area is now included within the boundaries of the Soviet Zone of Germany.

When Christian Heurich was born on September 12, 1842, Haina was a village of about 1,000 inhabitants, most of whom were engaged in agriculture. "The house in which I was born," he wrote ninety-two years later, "was an old castle which was built before the 30 Years' War. At the time of my birth the castle belonged to the University of Würzburg, and my parents lived there as tenants for twelve years."[7]

His parents were the innkeeper, Kaspar Heurich, and his wife, the former Anna Margarethe Fuchs. He had one brother, August Friedrich, and two sisters, Elisabeth Adalinda and Emilie.[8]

When Christian was six years old the revolutions of 1848 swept

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[5] *Diplomatische Geschichte des gräflichen Hauses Henneberg mit CCLV Urkunden und neun Kupfertafeln* (Hildburghausen, 1788), Band I, Stammtafeln (pedigrees) opposite p. 450.

[6] *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 13th ed. (1926), vol. 24, p. 261 (article, "Saxe-Meiningen"); K. Baedeker, *Northern Germany. Handbook for Travellers* (1886), p. 390; *Gothaisches Genealogisches Taschenbuch*, 1862, p. 74; *Almanach de Gotha*, 1876, p. 69.

[7] Christian Heurich, *Aus meinem Leben. 1842–1934. Von Haina in Thueringen nach Washington in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika. Lebenslauf und Erinnerungen* (1934), p. 10. (Hereinafter cited as Heurich.)

[8] Information about Mr. Heurich's brother and sisters was supplied by his grandnephew, Mr. C. F. Jacobsen, in 1957.

across Europe, and he recorded in his autobiography how he and other young boys ran to watch the older country lads train for military service.

This same year of 1848 witnessed the beginning of Christian's formal (but brief) education. When he was 12 years old the family moved to Römhild, where his father became proprietor of an inn. The boy was entered in the local school, where he was admitted to the so-called Upper Class. "In most branches of study," he tells us, "the other pupils were superior to me; but in arithmetic I excelled,[9] otherwise I would not have been permitted to remain in the Upper Class. Nevertheless, through my diligence I made up for my neglect and stood at the top when released from school, which happened when I was 14½ years old. Therewith ended my schooling."[10]

The greatest tragedy which befell the Heurich children in those days was the death of their mother, on March 8, 1856. She had sacrificed her health for her family, working day and night to make life as pleasant for them as possible. The family began to break up. Father Heurich was also ill, and gave up his inn, which passed to other hands. He died shortly afterward, grief-stricken over his wife's death. The older sister, Elisabeth, attached herself to a family which took her to America. The younger sister, Emilie, went to live with their married brother; eventually she married a man named Eduard Rust. Christian went to Themar, nearby, to learn two trades, those of butcher and brewer.

Heurich's apprenticeship at Themar lasted for two years (1857–1859). He was filled with the *Wanderlust*, and the next seven years were occupied with his travels to all parts of Germany and to Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Hungary, and France. Much of his traveling was on foot. He floated from Munich to Vienna by raft, on the Isar and Danube Rivers. He had worked at Basel, Lindau, Kempten, and Munich as a butcher, but at Vienna he reached a momentous decision—he would take up the brewing trade as his regular occupation. His two years' sojourn at Vienna he ever afterward regarded as one of the happiest periods of his life. In this capital of the multi-national Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, presided over with majestic dignity by Emperor Francis Joseph, there was much to amuse and delight a carefree young fellow. He was interested in everything he saw. Venice he found fascinating, with its countless doves at the Piazza di San Marco and the canals with their gondolas. He traversed Germany from Munich to Berlin. He worked a long time in a brewery in

[9] Literally, "I was it" (*war ich es*).

[10] Heurich, p. 11.

Kassel, the capital of the Electorate of Hessen, which, unknowingly, was on the verge of its collapse.

Heurich was back in Römhild in April 1863 for his required military service, but he was declared unfit because of an injury he had suffered to his right eye. He thereupon set out on his travels again, this time going to Lyon, France, where he worked for a short time in a brewery. Thence he went to Geneva, Lausanne, Interlaken, and other places in Switzerland, spent a little time in Budapest, and repeatedly visited Vienna. Wherever he went, he perfected himself in the techniques of the brewery trade, a knowledge which was to stand him in good stead when finally he settled down, in the United States.[11]

Meanwhile, Heurich's older sister, Elisabeth, had made her home in Baltimore, where she was married to a sea-captain named Hermann Jacobsen.[12] At the close of the American Civil War she invited her wandering brother to come to America.

He gave up his position in Vienna and at the beginning of April 1866 went to Hamburg, where he boarded a freighter for Grimsby, England. Thence he traveled by rail to Liverpool, where he obtained passage on the ship *Helvetia*. The vessel was only a day out of Liverpool when an epidemic of cholera broke out. On the third morning, the disease had made such fearful inroads among the passengers that the ship returned to port.

Heurich remembered stories he had been told while working in a Vienna brewery. Years before, in 1855, cholera had struck the Austrian capital. A physicians' congress recommended the drinking of beer, instead of water, since it is well known that the cholera germs are found in water and not in beer. The Vienna brewers drank quantities of beer with the cheerful thought, "If we must die, let us go happily to the other world" (*Wenn wir sterben müssen, lasst uns fröhlich in die andere Welt gehen*). The remedy worked; thousands of water-drinking Viennese perished, but the beer-imbibing brewers survived.

With this story fresh in his memory, Heurich drank only beer after cholera ravaged the *Helvetia*. Of the 1350 passengers, 350 died of the disease.[13]

After being held up for seven weeks in Liverpool, the *Helvetia* made another attempt, and finally landed its passengers in New York.

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[11] Heurich, pp. 12–15.

[12] *Wood's Baltimore City Directory* for 1865–66, p. 214, lists Jacobsen, Herman, mariner, 297 Canton Avenue.

[13] Heurich, pp. 16–18.

He stayed for several days at an inexpensive lodging-house, and visited points of interest. Then he departed for Baltimore, the train taking thirteen hours to cover the distance; he left New York at 9 o'clock in the morning and did not arrive in the Maryland metropolis until 10 at night. When he reached his sister's house he was surprised to learn that she and her husband and son had gone to the West Indies in a sailing ship of which Mr. Jacobsen was skipper.

Heurich obtained employment in the Rost brewery and, with the aid of a German tutor, began to study the English language. Three weeks after his arrival, the Jacobsens returned to Baltimore and the reunion between brother and sister was a joyful one.

The *Wanderlust* still gripped the young brewer. Eighteen months after he set foot in Baltimore he started West, and for a time worked in Chicago. November 1868 found him near Topeka, Kansas, where, for the first and only time in his long life, he voted for President.[14] His choice was the Civil War hero, General U. S. Grant, whose grandson of the same name is President of the Columbia Historical Society, now housed in the Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion. While in the West he became ill, and in 1869 returned to Baltimore. On his brother-in-law's advice, he became a seaman aboard a small sailing-vessel, on the theory that a voyage would restore his health. He visited Jamaica and other West Indian islands. His health improved, and he spent some time after the voyage in a Ripley, Ohio, brewery. When it was sold to a Cincinnati firm, he went back to Baltimore where he accepted a position as foreman in a brewery.

By this time Heurich was looking for a place to settle down. He was approached by Paul Ritter, who was employed by the Seeger Brewery in Baltimore, with a proposition for founding a firm of their own. After investigating several possibilities, they decided that Washington offered the best opportunity for engaging in such an enterprise.

On October 10, 1872, Paul Ritter and Christian Heurich leased from George Schnell, of Washington City in the District of Columbia, and Amelia his wife,[15] the messuages, tenements, and lots numbered 10 and 11 in Square 116 of the plan of the City of Washington, with all and singular the buildings, rights, privileges, and appurtenances

[14] *Ibid.*, p. 22. For a time he worked on the farm of an aunt near Topeka. In an interview in 1940, speaking of his one and only vote, he commented that "the general understanding was that if you had lived six months continuously in the same place you were entitled to cast a ballot". So, without the formality of naturalization, he cast his ballot. (*The Times-Herald*, Thursday, June 6, 1940, page C-3.)

[15] The wife was called "Emilie" in the body of the recorded copy, but the signature was clearly that of *Amelia* Schnell.

thereunto belonging, and also the kettles, boilers, engines, laying cooler and wash tubs lying and being in the brewery situated in the said lots, for and in consideration of the yearly rent of $1,800 during a term of ten years, payable from October 15 instant at the monthly rate of $150.[16]

Five days later Schnell sold to Ritter and Heurich, for the sum of $1350, the personal property in the brewery, consisting of machinery, kettles, vats, hogsheads, "and all manner of fixtures". Both documents were witnessed by A. H. L. Keese, and were recorded on November 1, 1872, at 3 p.m.[17]

When the new firm of Ritter and Heurich moved into Washington, there were only two breweries in the city—George Juenemann, at 4th and F Streets, N. E., and Christopher Dickson, at 713–4½ Streets, S. W.[18] Two years later, the number of brewers in the National Capital grew to eight.[19] In the course of the years, new brewery firms were founded and others dropped out; and at the time of Christian Heurich's death, nearly seventy-three years after he started in business, his was the only brewery in the city.

The firm of Ritter and Heurich, as it was officially called, prospered. Mr. Ritter, who attended the customers, was personally popular; moreover, he was not averse to accepting credit for the production of a good beer, although it was Mr. Heurich's technical "knowhow" that gave it a delicious flavor. Heurich records that his was "an enormous task" (*eine ungeheure Arbeit*); his working day averaged 18 hours.

As so often happens, dissatisfaction broke out between the partners.[20] The result was that on August 2, 1873, the firm of Ritter and Heurich was dissolved by mutual agreement, Heurich purchasing Ritter's interests for the sum of $1,675.[21]

For the next few years the firm was known as Christian Heurich's Lager Beer Brewery.[22] The distinction between lager beer and other types of beer is that lager has been aged for several months after being brewed. Lager beer was first brewed in Pennsylvania in the early 1840's. English types of beer are produced by the aid of yeasts which rise to the top during fermentation. Lager beers employ a yeast which

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[16] Liber 700, pp. 100–103, Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D. C.
[17] Liber 700, pp. 99–100, Office of the Recorder of Deeds.
[18] *Boyd's Directory of the City of Columbia*, 1872, p. 28.
[19] *Ibid.*, 1874, p. 21.
[20] Heurich, pp. 24–25.
[21] Liber 728, pp. 235–236, Office of the Recorder of Deeds.
[22] Washington city directories, 1875 and later issues.

settles on the bottom when its work is done. These different types of beer generate different tastes. Lager beer requires a longer period of secondary fermentation during which it is kept "at rest"—the meaning of the German word *Lager*. In this period of secondary fermentation its valuable properties of taste are developed. The introduction of lager beer by a Pennsylvania brewer revolutionized the American brewing industry. It was found to be a more palatable beer, lighter in body and in alcoholic content, and possessing a sparkling quality.[23]

In the production of lager beer Christian Heurich excelled. "Figuratively," said an anonymous writer many years later, "he was a one-man industry as he did back-breaking toil as his own brewmaster, his own kettleman, his own engineer, collector, solicitor, clerk. It would be nice to say all this effort brought immediate success, but such was not the case, as his original records he has to this day will show. There were disheartening months at first when his output failed to pass five barrels a day, and sometimes even less."[24] He was not exaggerating in later life when he used to comment that he did six men's work.

Through his unremitting efforts his business grew to such an extent that he was forced to enlarge his plant, which was originally located at 1229 Twentieth Street, N. W., but later extended from 1223 to 1235 Twentieth Street, inclusive.[25] It was reported in 1878 that the annual capacity of his plant was 30,000 barrels.[26] He brought two nephews from Germany, Hugo J. and Karl Heurich, sons of his brother August Friedrich, who entered the business, Hugo as foreman and Karl as clerk.[27]

Meanwhile, a pleasant turn in Heurich's personal affairs occurred. On September 9, 1873, he married a widow, Amelia Schnell, *eine geborene Mueller*, "who was more than merely a helper to me; the result was a particularly happy marriage, which, however, remained childless."[28]

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[23] John P. Arnold and Frank Perman, *History of the Brewing Industry and Brewing. Prepared as a Memorial to the Pioneers of American Brewing Science, Dr. John E. Siebel and Anton Schwarz* (1933), pp. 56–57.

[24] "The Formula for Success Heurich Style", *Heurich Employees Association News*, Heurich Anniversary Edition, September 12, 1942 (unpaged). (Collections of Mrs. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr.)

[25] Washington city directories, 1874–95.

[26] *The Western Brewer* for August 1878 (unavailable to the writer), quoted in *One Hundred Years of Brewing. A Complete History of the Progress Made in the Art, Science, and Industry of Brewing in the World, Particularly During the Nineteenth Century. Supplement to The Western Brewer* (1903).

[27] Heurich, p. 25; Washington city directories, 1879 and later years.

[28] Heurich, p. 25; *Familien-Stammbaum* (family tree) in the first part of Mr. Heurich's autobiography.

Amelia was born on October 23, either in 1841 or 1842.[29] She was the widow of George Schnell, from whom Heurich and Ritter had leased the brewery property in 1872. On November 5, 1872, Schnell made his will, in which he bequeathed all of his estate, real and personal, "unto my beloved wife, Amelia Schnell, her heirs and assigns in fee simple". Among the witnesses was her brother, August Muller (Mueller, Müller). The will was proved on November 23, 1872.[30] George and Amelia (Mueller) Schnell apparently had no issue.

Amelia's father was the senior August Mueller, who came to Washington about 1830, became a large landowner, and was possessed of a farm at what is now 20th Street and Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.

On November 12, 1879, Amelia Heurich, wife of Christian Heurich, of the City of Washington in the District of Columbia, for the sum of $1,841.57 purchased from Thomas Sunderland and Mary A., his wife, of the City of San Francisco in the State of California, lots numbered 37 and 38 of Thomas Sunderland's recorded subdivision of Square numbered 115 in the said city, "together with all improvements, ways, easements, rights, privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging or in anywise appertaining, and all the remainders, reversions, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand either at law or in equity or otherwise however of the said parties of the first part [the Sunderlands] of in to or out of the said pieces or parcels of ground and premises."[31]

This purchase is of considerable importance to us, for on these lots, numbers 37 and 38, was erected at a later date the present Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion. The plat of this property, in the records of the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (Liber 10, folio 53), shows that Square 115 was on both sides of Sunderland Place from present Dupont Circle to N Street, N. W. The square was divided into 57 lots. Lot 38 is where the Mansion now stands; lot 37 is behind it. The plat reveals that at Dupont Circle were the tracks of the "Metropolitan Street Railroad".

In spite of financial reverses suffered early in his business career—an experience that impelled him to refuse to buy stocks and bonds

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[29] Her tombstone inscription in Oak Hill cemetery gives the date October 23, 1841. The Müller family Bible, in the possession of Mr. Heurich's granddaughter, Mrs. Benjamin C. Evans, gives 1842 as the year. Mrs. Evans informed the writer she understood her grandfather's first wife was older than he, which would make the tombstone inscription more accurate. The entries in the family Bible may not be contemporary entries but written at a later date.

[30] Will of George Schnell, No. 6836 O.S., in the Office of the Register of Wills, Washington, D. C.

[31] Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D. C., Liber 929, folios 310–312.

for the rest of his life[32]—Mr. Heurich prospered. He invested heavily in real estate in many parts of the District and in nearby Maryland, and from his numerous properties he reaped handsome returns.[33]

Mrs. Heurich was in ill health and for some time she lived with relatives on Montgomery Street in Baltimore. She died there on September 21, 1884. Her remains were brought to Washington and conveyed to her home at 1229-20th Street, N.W. The great crowds of mourners at her funeral services and the numerous floral tributes which filled the room in which her costly casket stood, attested to the respect in which she was held. She had been active in many charitable works. Rev. Ernst Lehnert, pastor of St. John's Church, in Washington, conducted the services. The long procession wended its way to Oak Hill Cemetery, in Georgetown, where Honorable Simon Wolf, a German Jew by birth, former Judge of the Municipal Court for the District of Columbia and onetime American Consul-General in Egypt, delivered a short but moving address. Judge Wolf emphasized the character of the honest German wife, and noticed particularly that, in spite of her worldly goods, Mrs. Heurich always remained unassuming and modest and endured her suffering with patience. "The memory in which she will long be alive in many hearts," wrote a German reporter who witnessed the obsequies, "and especially those to whom she was once so good will remember her; all of her benefactions were accomplished quietly and without ostentation. May the earth be her light."[34] Her husband's tribute to her was simple but eloquent: "*Ein unersetzlicher Verlust fuer mich*" (an irreparable loss for me).[35]

Mrs. Heurich's will, which was probated on September 26, 1884, was written in Baltimore, where she was "at present sojourning". In addition to monetary bequests to her sister, Laura Keyser, her aunt, Mrs. Theresia Meyer, her cousin, Miss Laura Meyer, and her servant, Miss Elenore Brown, she bequeathed all of the rest and residue of her property, real, personal, and mixed, "including especially my two lots of ground N° 37 and N° 38 square 115 in the City of Washington . . . to my beloved husband Christian Heurich his heirs, executors administrators and assigns". The executor of her will was her hus-

[32] Heurich, p. 26; information from his granddaughter, Mrs. Evans.

[33] Heurich, pp. 27–28, 39–40. The index volumes in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds make frequent references to him as purchaser and seller of many pieces of property. However, he must not be confused with a Christian *Henrichs* and a Christian *Henry* who were active in land transactions in the last quarter of the 19th century.

[34] *Städtische Neuigkeiten*, Washington, D. C., September 24, 1884. (Clipping from a German-language newspaper; collections of Mrs. Evans.)

[35] Heurich, p. 35. On her tombstone Mr. Heurich had inscribed another tribute: "*Ach, sie haben / Eine gute Frau begraben / Und dem Gatten war sie mehr*" (Ah, they have buried a good wife, and to her husband she was more).

band. One of the three witnesses, Louis P. Hennighausen, was an outstanding leader of the German colony at Baltimore.[36]

Mr. Heurich's loss was indeed great, but he was not inconsolable. Less than three years later, on February 1, 1887, he married Miss Mathilde Daetz, who had come to Washington a year earlier from Bremervoerde, near Bremen, Germany.[37]

Mr. Heurich never lost his love of travel. The *Wanderlust* which gripped him so tightly during his youth remained with him almost to the very end. In 1882 with his first wife, Amelia, and his sister, he went to Europe and visited his friends and relatives at his old Thuringian home. They visited many other places, too. Sixty years later he said: "I met our famous Richard Wagner and was present when he directed the first performance of *Parsifal* in 1882 at Bayreuth. Should any one present[38] appreciate good music I would advise you if opportunity presents itself to take advantage and see *Parsifal.* It is beautiful." In 1885, as a widower, he took the hydropathic treatment at Elgersburg, Thuringia, and two years later, accompanied by his second wife, he took treatment at Marienbad.[39]

Mr. Heurich's brewing business continued to expand. He wrote, "1890 was a very good business year," and the Christian Heurich Brewing Company was capitalized at $800,000.[40] In this same year he advertised that "The Lager Beer of my manufacture has gained a world-spread reputation for its purity and invigorating properties. Recommended for Family Use by Physicians in General. Telephone connections with all parts of the city."[41]

The Department of Agriculture analyzed the different brands of beer on sale in Washington for the purpose of exposing adulterations of food and drink. When the results of the analysis were published, the names of the cities in which the beers were manufactured were given but not the names of the manufacturers. Some of the Washington samples were found to contain foreign or deleterious substances. Mr. Heurich, who was thoroughly familiar with the ingredients of his beers and well aware that they did not contain deleterious substances, requested the Commissioner of Agriculture to publish the results of the analysis of his samples. His request was denied, whereupon Heu-

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[36] The will was probated in Baltimore but a copy of it (No. 1,669) is on file in the Office of the Register of Wills, Washington.

[37] Heurich, p. 37. Mathilde (Daetz) Heurich's wedding ring, inscribed with the date, is in the possession of Mr. Heurich's granddaughter, Mrs. Evans.

[38] The occasion for these remarks was the celebration by the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of Mr. Heurich's 100th birthday (1942).

[39] Heurich, pp. 29–30, 33, 36, 37.

[40] *Ibid.*, p. 38.

[41] *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia,* 1890, p. 481.

rich sought Congressional help. Representative Jacob Romeis, of Ohio, introduced a resolution requiring the Commissioner to inform the House "upon what grounds, if any, he refuses said Heurich the information demanded by him". The Department of Agriculture published its findings. Mr. Heurich's good name and reputation were vindicated, and he was able to advertise triumphantly that his beers did not contain "a trace of salicylic acid, bicarbonate of soda, or sulphide of lime . . . and the analysis proves, beyond a doubt, that no deleterious substance of any description finds a place in the brewing of Heurich's Beer. HEURICH'S BEER IS ABSOLUTELY PURE."[42]

Mr. Heurich won the respect, friendship and admiration of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief chemist of the Department of Agriculture and an untiring fighter for the famous Pure Food and Drugs Act passed in 1906. "Whenever we have any experimenting to do," Dr. Wiley once said, "we send to Mr. Heurich for yeast, and we have stopped using the compressed yeast on the market because we find that furnished us by Mr. Heurich is very superior in action."[43]

The Christian Heurich Brewing Company's growth was so phenomenal that the firm's head had to seek new quarters. He purchased Square 22, overlooking the Potomac, and there he built the great brewery which, for seven decades, until its demolition in 1962, stood for all that is finest in the manufacture of American beers. This square is bounded by 25th, D, Water and 26th Streets, N.W. Mr. Heurich had had several unfortunate experiences with fires in his time; once, he was almost wiped out by a fierce conflagration. He resolved never again to face ruin because of devastating flames. The new brewery was completely fireproof. It was three years in construction; the first barrel of beer was sent out from it on January 11, 1896. It had a capacity of 500,000 barrels a year. Connected with it was an ice-manufacturing establishment with a capacity of 250 tons daily.

"A trip through the establishment," wrote a newspaper reporter, "with its score or more of immense vats, tanks, and tubs, each having its own particular function in connection with the production of the finished product, is bewildering, but the most striking feature is the cleanliness apparent everywhere. There is a polish on every scrap of metal, and not a speck of dirt is to be seen anywhere."

"Leaving the mechanical part of the building," the same writer continues, "the most picturesque spot in the whole building is the

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[42] *Ibid.*, 1892 opposite p. 511. The story of Mr. Heurich's fight with the Department of Agriculture is told in *The Western Brewer* for December 16, 1902 (not available to the author, but summarized in an article entitled, "How Heurich Forced U. S. To Show Purity Of His Beer", *The Times-Herald*, Washington, D. C., June 6, 1940, p. C-9).

[43] *The Times-Herald*, June 6, 1940, p. C-9.

'German room,' above the brewery office, and overlooking the Potomac. This is a cozy apartment, arranged according to a pet idea of Mr. Heurich's. It is handsomely fitted up in antique oak, and the walls are adorned with frescoed burlaps in which hops were received, the result being a close imitation of tapestry. Old German mottoes, and some English ones, as well, extolling the virtues of good beer, are scattered here and there, and it is in this room that Mr. Heurich entertains his friends, who like to sit and sip the foamy beverage, which is as plentiful in that vicinity as water in the river, flowing noiselessly almost at the entrance of the building."[44]

The architect of the fortress-like building was C. F. Tierney, of New York. Among the Washington firms contributing skill and material for the building were Henry Conradts, brick work; W. M. Whyte and Brother and O. L. Wolfsteiner, galvanized iron and copper; J. W. Lindsay, slate work; E. E. Jackson & Co., lumber; E. L. Dent Iron Works and E. N. Gray Co., iron work; and Hugh Reilly, glass. Other firms providing materials for the construction of the brewery came from New York, Chicago, Louisville, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia.[45]

Mr. Heurich was a firm believer in publicity. The week of November 9–14, 1896, he threw the brewery open to public inspection, each day devoted to a different group, as follows: Monday, the press; Tuesday, the brewery trade; Wednesday, the Diplomatic Corps; Thursday, Department clerks and the general public; and Friday, the trades unions. November 16 was "Ladies' Day" at the brewery. All groups were entertained in the "German room" with salads, frankfurters, cold meats, and rolls. "Beer was placed before every guest," *The Washington Post* reported the next day, "and about 90 per cent of them drank it. The other 10 per cent looked as if they wanted to." One young lady in a sealskin cape said, "I'm so glad to have seen it. It seems wrong to think of so much money being wasted in manufacturing beer." Her male escort, with "his Bible-class manner", agreed, "It is wicked." When Mr. Heurich hurried up to offer them a taste of his product, the *Post* reporter observed, "The young woman in the sealskin cape walked toward the door. The young man sneaked after her. She spoke no word, but there was that in her manner which chilled the marrow in his bones."

At this time the Christian Heurich Brewing Company manufactured three classes of beer, the Maerzen, the famous Senate, and Lager.

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[44] *The Washington Post*, November 10, 1896. (Scrapbook, 1896–1899; collections of Mrs. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr.)

[45] *Liquor Dealer*, November 14, 1896. (Scrapbook, 1896–1899.)

It also produced Stock Ale. On March 19, 1898, Heurich's Bock Beer made its appearance.[46] The company's products were bottled by the Arlington Bottling Company, founded by Mr. Heurich's nephew, Charles Jacobsen (son of his sister Elisabeth, and her husband, Captain Hermann Jacobsen); its place of business was at 27th and K Streets, N. W.[47]

Mr. Heurich obtained notice of his products in apparent news stories, no doubt paying advertising rates to the papers. For instance, under the heading, "Mrs. Langtry Is Divorced", *The Washington Post* carried on May 15, 1897: "A dispatch from Lakeford states that Mrs. Langtry[48] has been granted a divorce from Edward Langtry. The exact grounds for the decree are not known. Incompatibility of temperament and purpose accounts for most of the cases of connubial infelicity. Nothing else promotes domestic peace and happiness like Heurich's beer. Mountains become molehills, differences are adjusted, and barriers are removed, after drinking it. 'Heurich's' is grateful to the stomach and mellows the heart with good fellowship. Both the 'Maerzen' and the 'Senate' are six months old before they leave the brewery, and are famous for their purity and fine flavor—superior to the imported. For sale in all first-class hotels and restaurants. Case of 24 bottles only $1.25. 'Phone 634." Again, on April 4, 1899, an item headlined "A Gold Statue of Maude Adams to Cost $346,000", informs us: "Miss Maude Adams[49] has inspired her gold-mining admirers in Salt Lake City, the place of her birth, with a desire to exhibit a statue of her in gold at the Paris Exposition in 1900. The enterprise has not yet reached a point where it could formally be brought to the attention of Miss Adams, but an agent of her enthusiastic friends is negotiating for the designing and casting of a life-size statue, agreeing to furnish gold bullion to the value of $346,000 for the purpose. Miss Maude Adams has made numerous friends, just as numerous as the friends of Heurich's Maerzen and Senate Beers. Heurich's receive the admiration of every one after he has drunk a bottle of Maerzen or Senate Beer, because they possess such winning qualities as age, purity, and strength. Sold by all leading hotels and restaurants, and also by the Arlington Bottling Co.[50] 'Phone six-thirty-four for a case."

Needless to say, Mr. Heurich was the target of the Anti-Saloon League of the District of Columbia. In 1894 he successfully supported

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[46] Advertisement, *The Washington Post*. (Scrapbook, 1896–1899.)

[47] Advertisements in the scrapbook.

[48] The reference, of course, is to the celebrated English actress, Lily Langtry ("The Jersey Lily").

[49] The famous American actress.

[50] The company owned by Mr. Heurich's nephew, Charles Jacobsen.

the application of Ernst Loeffler for a bar-room license at his place of business in Tenleytown on the Georgetown and Rockville pike property, (owned by Mr. Heurich) who, Mr. Heurich wrote, "has spent hundreds of dollars in improving it and has been very careful in letting it to a responsible man, who will perform his contract with him and carry on the business that it may be a credit to the neighborhood, thereby enhancing the value of the property."[51] Ten years later, Mr. Loeffler gave up the saloon, which was acquired by William H. Achterkirschen. The Anti-Saloon League, in its monthly periodical, *The Protest* (May 1904, pages 117 and 119), castigated Mr. Heurich and other supporters of Achterkirschen, who was "given the privilege of dispensing liquors to the young men of Tenleytown, whom the church and temperance people of the village are endeavoring to elevate". The League sent a copy of this issue of *The Protest* to Mr. Heurich for his edification and as an expression of its displeasure.[52]

Prohibition was the bane of Mr. Heurich's existence during a great part of his business career. Born and reared in a country where beer flowed as freely as water, it did not make sense to him that anyone could disapprove of the pleasant habit of drinking the beverage. Yet, loyal American citizen that he was, when Congress passed the Volstead Prohibition Enforcement Act on October 28, 1919, he promptly closed down his brewery and did not reopen it until the Act was repealed on December 5, 1933. He would have nothing to do with the bootlegging practices of some beer and liquor manufacturers. To him the law of the land was sacred and must be obeyed. This remarkable man, the symbol of honor and integrity, was ninety-one years old when he reopened his plant and began once again to make the beer that had won prizes for purity, quality and excellence at the Expositions held in Paris in 1900, Liège in 1905, and Jamestown in 1907.

For approximately the first sixteen years of his residence in Washington, Mr. Heurich lived at 1229-20th Street, N.W., the address of his first brewery. The city directory for 1888 shows that he then resided at 1218-19th Street, N.W.; he continued to make it his home for six or seven years thereafter.

It will be recalled that in 1884 he had inherited from his first wife,

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[51] Carbon copy of letter, dated June 20, 1894, "To the Hon. Excise Board".

[52] The writer is indebted to Mr. O. Kenneth Baker, Past President of the National Genealogical Society and now a Vice-President of the Columbia Historical Society, for calling to his attention the letter of June 20, 1894, and *The Protest* for May 1904. They were discovered by the National Genealogical Society when it first occupied its quarters in the Heurich Mansion. They have been turned over to the Columbia Historical Society for its archives.

Amelia, the two lots (nos. 37 and 38 in Square 115) which she had purchased from the Sunderlands in 1879. He made plans for a fireproof residence—the first in the District of Columbia—and in 1892 he began on lot 38 the construction of his permanent home.[53] The architect was his friend, John Granville Meyers, a Pennsylvanian by birth, whose place of business was at 1323 G Street, N. W. He advertised as his specialty "fine residences and fire-proof buildings".[54] The writer was informed[55] that H. F. Huber, of New York, had a connection with the building of the house. The New York City directory for 1894–1895 shows H. F. Huber as residing at 336 West 42nd Street; no occupation is given. The New York directories for the 1890's, however, reveal that Hugo F. Huber was listed variously as being a furniture dealer and a decorator. If so, he may have been responsible for the beautiful interior decorating that was done in the house. Construction of the building took two years, Mr. Heurich and his second wife, Mathilde, moving into it late in 1894. Later additions to this massive granite building were made by another Washington architect and good friend of Mr. Heurich's, Appleton P. Clark, Jr., whose parents came to the Nation's capital from Philadelphia only a few years before his birth here in 1865. His elder brother was Allan C. Clark, for many years President of the Columbia Historical Society.[56]

Meanwhile, Mrs. Heurich suffered a decline in health. About 1893, when driving at the corner of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. her horses ran away and she was thrown violently from her carriage. "She was of a cheerful and ambitious disposition, and her efforts to be about with her family when she was feeling considerably better caused her to have several relapses," wrote the author of her obituary in *The Washington Post*. "Mr. Heurich recently moved into his new and beautiful home, and his wife took it upon herself largely to arrange the household effects and decorations". She died at her home, 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W., January 20, 1895, at the early age of 33. "Mrs. Heurich was a tall brunette with perfect features and brown hair and eyes," continued the same writer. "She was inclined to society and gave a great deal of her wealth to private charity."[57]

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[53] Heurich, p. 39.

[54] Letter from Mr. Meyers' granddaughter, Miss (C.) Belle Meyers, published in the Washington, D. C. *Star*, May 11, 1955; *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia*, 1892, p. 685; *Columbia Historical Society Has a Home* (leaflet, 1957 and 1959).

[55] By Mr. Christian Heurich, Jr., July 26, 1962.

[56] John Clagett Proctor, LL.M., Editor-in-Chief, *Washington Past and Present. A History* (1930), vol. III, p. 12 (biography of Appleton Prentiss Clark, Jr.).

[57] *The Washington Post*, Monday, January 21, 1895, p. 5.

Mr. Heurich had no children by either of his first two wives, and it appeared that he would leave no direct heirs to carry on the Heurich tradition he was creating. His nephew, Karl Heurich, left the firm about 1890 and operated a restaurant, a saloon, and, briefly, a hotel, according to the city directories. His other nephew, Hugo, remained with the company as his foreman until about 1885, when he suffered a bodily injury that made it impossible for him to continue working. Mr. Heurich had to employ a brewmaster in his place; the latter left the Heurich company in 1898 to take over a brewery of his own in Wilmington, Delaware. Hugo did not long survive his enforced separation from the firm; he died on February 12, 1886, "after a lingering illness", and was buried with the first Mrs. Heurich in Oak Hill Cemetery.[58]

Mr. Heurich's sister, Elisabeth, and her husband, Captain Hermann Jacobsen, had one son, Charles, who was born in Baltimore on May 1, 1860, came to Washington as a boy and received his start in the business world by being employed in his uncle's brewery. In 1884 he founded and was President of the Arlington Bottling Company, which bottled the Heurich beers. With his passion for work, so characteristic of the Heurich family, he engaged in numerous business activities; he was President of the Frazee Potomac Laundry Company, the first dealer in Ford automobiles in Washington (1901), owner of the Hotel Sterling at 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (sold to Henry Ford), a director and in his later years Vice-President of the Christian Heurich Brewing Company, and a director of the National Metropolitan Bank, of which his eldest son, Christian F. Jacobsen, became President in 1939.[59]

Mr. Heurich, having only collateral heirs at that time, married a third time on January 11, 1899. His bride was Miss Amelia Louise Keyser, who was born in Richmond, Virginia, July 6, 1866, a daughter of Dr. Peter Louis Keyser and his wife, Laura Mueller, daughter of August Mueller and sister of the first Mrs. Heurich. He thus married his late wife's niece. Her sisters were Augusta K. and Anna M. Keyser, and she had four brothers, Louis P., Dr. Carl Schurz, Adolph G., and J. Henry Keyser.[60] Prior to her marriage Mrs. Heurich was employed in the office of the Architect of the Treasury Department. Their wedding trip was to Florida, but later in the year Mr. Heurich took his wife and her two sisters to Europe. For a little while Mrs. Heurich could not quite get used to being the wife of her former uncle by

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[58] Heurich, p. 36; *The Washington Post*, Sunday, February 14, 1886.

[59] Obituary of Charles Jacobsen, *The Evening Star*, Thursday, July 2, 1953.

[60] *Familien-Stammbaum*, in the first part of Mr. Heurich's autobiography.

marriage; she continued to call him "Uncle" until he reminded her, gently, of their changed relationship.[61]

Mr. Heurich's second wife, Mathilde, did not live long enough to make her influence felt in the mansion at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., although, as her obituary stated, she did strive to "arrange the household effects and decorations". But the house, as we know it today, is the creation of Christian Heurich and his third wife, Amelia. A contemporary account, written only four years after their wedding, provides an interesting record:[62]

> . . . This residence was the first fireproof dwelling built in Washington. To the architects called upon to submit plans for such a structure, it was long a perplexing question, and not until a few valuable suggestions offered by Mr. Heurich, was the problem solved. Every precaution and device known in the construction of modern office buildings to guard against the ravages of fire have been herein embodied regardless of cost. The interior of the palatial Heurich home is well worthy of mention. The spacious hallway, triangular in shape, is of beautiful proportions, and leads to a library, on the left of the entrance, whose rich walls are covered by many fine canvasses of the modern school. Back of this large room rises the stairway of brass, marble,[63] and onyx, whose graceful curves greatly enhance the beauty of the hall. Opposite the library is the drawing room, a lofty apartment of noble proportions, whose richly decorated ceiling, done by a master hand, of exquisitely delicate tints, fade to a handsome and richly carved ivory frieze, which, in turn, blends into the softer tints of the paneled side walls. The reception room is next to the drawing room; then a music room, a smaller apartment, which is overhung by a mezzanine gallery, and is also visible from the front hallway. Another reception room, in the rear of the music room, is beautifully proportioned, furnished and lighted, and opens into the large stately, superbly paneled dining room. In the rear of this room the conservatory, rookery, fernery, and aviary, wherein the plash of an electric fountain lends an enchantment to the charming environment. Above stairs the apartments are sumptuous and regal in their magnificence. The state chambers, a suite designed by Mrs. Heurich, are fit for royalty. The same beautiful taste and refinement reflected in the soft tones and color scheme of the house throughout, are to to be found at every turn, and which places the Heurich residence far in the lead of the many beautiful homes in this beautiful city.

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[61] Anecdote related to the author by their granddaughter, Mrs. Evans.

[62] Allan B. Slauson, editor, *A History of the City of Washington, Its Men and Institutions* (published by *The Washington Post*, 1903).

[63] The marble, the finest that could be procured, is from the far-famed "Carrara district" in Italy. The Carrara marble quarries have been worked for 2,000 years, and supplied the marble for the Pantheon at Rome. (*The Encyclopedia Americana*, Victory Edition, 1945, vol. 5, p. 663, article, "Carrara Marble".)

The writer of the foregoing description apparently did not venture to explore the basement. There he would have found a good-sized room in which Mr. Heurich maintained his business archives with meticulous accuracy. He was so methodical in the keeping of records, back even to his earliest days in business, that in a matter of seconds he could produce any document bearing on his brewery, his Maryland farm, or any other business transaction in which he was engaged.[64] One wall of the room was covered by a wooden cabinet filled with file drawers, each carefully labelled as to its contents.[65]

The most interesting room in the basement, however, is the so-called "German breakfast room", on the walls of which are eight German mottoes extolling the virtues of beer. Among them are the following: *Ein guter Trunk macht Alte jung* (a good drink makes old people young); *Ein froher Gast ist niemand's Last* (a happy guest is nobody's burden); *Schöpf aus ein Pokale neue Ideale* (draw new ideals from your drinking cup); and *Raum ist in der kleinsten Kam(m)er für den grös(s)ten Katzenjam(m)er* (there is room in the smallest chamber for the biggest hangover)—this last a sage observation. Over the fireplace is a Latin motto, *Gaudeamus igitur* (thus we live; therefore let us rejoice). The ceiling in the German breakfast room is decorated with pictures of beer steins and of happy beer-drinkers.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Heurich, the first, second and fourth at the mansion in Washington, and the third at their Bellevue Farm, in Maryland: Christian, Jr., December 11, 1901; Anna Marguerite, December 19, 1903; Anita Augusta, June 28, 1905; and Karla Louise, October 20, 1907. The second child and eldest daughter, Anna Marguerite, died at their Bellevue Farm, September 7, 1904, aged less than one year. Her passing occurred a day after the family's return from one of their periodic European trips. Some twenty years after her death, Mr. and Mrs. Heurich erected a memorial to her in the electric fountain in the conservatory; it consists of the bronze figure of a boy with duck and shell in his hands, and it is 48 inches high. The signature on it is "Schuler"; Mr. Christian Heurich, Jr. informed the author that the sculptor was Hans Schuler, of Baltimore.[66] On the wall behind the fountain is the figure of a baby's face; it represents the infant Anna Marguerite.

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[64] Information from Christian Heurich, Jr.

[65] The author's observations in 1957, when he assisted in the task of making the archives room into the library room of the National Genealogical Society, which now uses the file drawers for its current periodicals.

[66] The Baltimore city directories for the early 1920's list Hans Schuler, sculptor, at 7 East Lafayette Avenue.

For nearly half a century, Mr. and Mrs. Heurich exemplified the gracious living that one has come to associate with the wealthy American family at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. They, and their children, were surrounded by their possessions brought together at considerable expense from Europe and many parts of the United States. The treasures they assembled in the mansion at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue included Oriental rugs (Khoresan, Meshed, Bijar, Kazak, and Daghistan); beautiful gold leaf furniture of the periods of the *Grand Monarque*, Louis XIV, Louis XV of *après moi, le déluge* fame, and Louis XVI who was unable to keep his head; gold brocade draperies; French 12-light brass chandeliers; a beautiful gold decorated Steinway parlor grand piano; a massive carved oak dining room set, consisting of an extension table and leaves; a large painting on velvet of a tavern scene, measuring approximately 84 by 76 inches, in an antique velvet covered frame (in the first floor dining room); a large electrolier with the decorated figure of an Arabian slave girl (in the conservatory); a suit of armor, of the Italian school, guarding the hall as one enters the house; an antique Japanese cloisonné temple vase with dragon handles, 48 inches tall, also in the front hall; and numerous other beautiful objects.[67] These possessions, so cherished by the Heurich family, are still in the mansion and are preserved with care by the Columbia Historical Society as symbols of life in the grand manner of a period in our national history that can never be recovered.

The Heurich mansion was a showplace sixty years ago; and it is a showplace today. The wood carvings for the fire places are outstanding. On the first and second floors there is an unusual amount of gold leaf, in almost perfect condition. The cherubs painted on the ceiling in the Blue Room (to the right, as one enters the house) provide an unsuspected classical aspect. The dining room on the first floor is a tribute to the German woodcarver's art. The richly ornamented bathtubs and wash-basins on the second and third floors contain decorations rarely seen today on any bathroom fixtures. The fourth floor was occupied by the servants.

In the Heurich mansion is an elevator shaft, but an elevator was never installed. There are several conflicting stories concerning the reasons for this, but Mr. Heurich's granddaughter, Mrs. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr., informed the author that he was determined there should

[67] These descriptions are from C. G. Sloan & Co.'s appraisement of the household furniture and furnishings, dated December 10, 1958, in the archives of the Columbia Historical Society.

be no elevator in the house until he was too old to use the stairs. He lived to be 102 years old, and *never* felt too old to go up and down the stairs.

On the flat roof of the house is a tower reminiscent of castle towers with which the Rhine River in Germany is dotted. It was intended for a planetarium; on the ceiling are painted stars and a crescent (quarter moon). Around the edges of the blue "sky" are three elves representing German folk tales; one elf is gazing at the heavens through a telescope.

Behind the house the well-kept garden with its dogwood and pear trees, roses, wisterias, azaleas and other plants was a beauty spot to which Mr. Heurich loved to retire in relaxation from the cares of business. Nearby was the carriage-house where in the pre-automobile days the Heurich carriages were kept; it was used subsequently for the family automobiles in later days.

Mr. and Mrs. Heurich gave a number of parties in the mansion during the first quarter of the century, but after 1926 fewer parties were held. They were not very much given to society. Mrs. Heurich, indeed, belonged to the old school which believed that it was not proper for one's name to appear in the newspapers. This rule applied especially to ladies. She avoided publicity, and it was rare indeed when a newspaper photographer was able to snap her picture. Breakfast and lunch were eaten in the German breakfast room in the basement, with the carved effigies of ancient Counts and Countesses of Henneberg watching them. Dinner, however, was always served in the stately dining room on the first floor. The Heurichs did not approve of hard liquors, and in their home there was never any beverage stronger than beer—and, even though it was Heurich's beer, the head of the house drank that in moderation. In the family circle the parents generally spoke German with their children, but in conversation with the grandchildren who were added to the Heurich ranks in the course of time, English was the preferred medium of communication.

Here, in the great mansion near Dupont Circle, the Heurich family passed through the experiences common to all families. Their children, except the third one, were born here; two of them were married in the house; and from this house, beginning with the death of Mr. Heurich's second wife, Mathilde, in 1895, a series of funerals proceeded.

The only son, Christian, Jr., attended the old Force School on Massachusetts Avenue and Western High School, from which he went to the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania.

graduating there in 1923. He was employed for a time at the National Metropolitan Bank, went into the real estate business in 1925, and in 1933, when the Heurich Brewery was reopened as a result of the repeal of the prohibition law, he entered the family firm and became its treasurer. He was a noted athlete at high school and college, and in 1935 he constructed a gymnasium at the brewery where he trained the highly successful athletic teams (basketball, baseball, soccer) which went by the name of Heurich Brewers. On December 5, 1925, he married, in Philadelphia, Consuelo Madelyn Young, his first wife, by whom he had three daughters, Consuelo Corinne, Carol Jean, and Constance Ann. By his second wife, Mrs. Beverly Peters Jones, he has two sons, Christian III and Gary.[68]

Anita Augusta, the second but elder surviving daughter, was married at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., on June 21, 1928, to Charles Ellison Eckles, a native of Columbus, Missouri, and a graduate of the University of Minnesota. After serving with the Department of Agriculture in the capacity of economist, he entered the Christian Heurich Brewing Company of which he became advertising and general sales manager. In 1940 he was described as "a distinguished amateur photographer, an ardent hunter, a first-class shot —and hopes to be a better golfer than he is at present."[69] To this union two sons and a daughter were born, Stanley Heurich, Geoffrey Alan, and Amelia Alice Eckles.

The mansion on New Hampshire Avenue was the scene of the marriage of the Heurichs' youngest child, Karla Louise, who became the wife, on March 26, 1931, of Lieutenant Charles Bowler King, United States Army.[70] Lieutenant King, a graduate of the United States Military Academy, was promoted through grades until he attained the rank of colonel.[71] Three children were born to them, namely: Jan Allison, Charles Bowler, Jr., and Donald Christian Heurich King. It was on the occasion of the birth of his granddaughter, Jan King on December 22, 1932, that the venerable patriarch, Christian Heurich, Sr., inscribed the following lines:[72]

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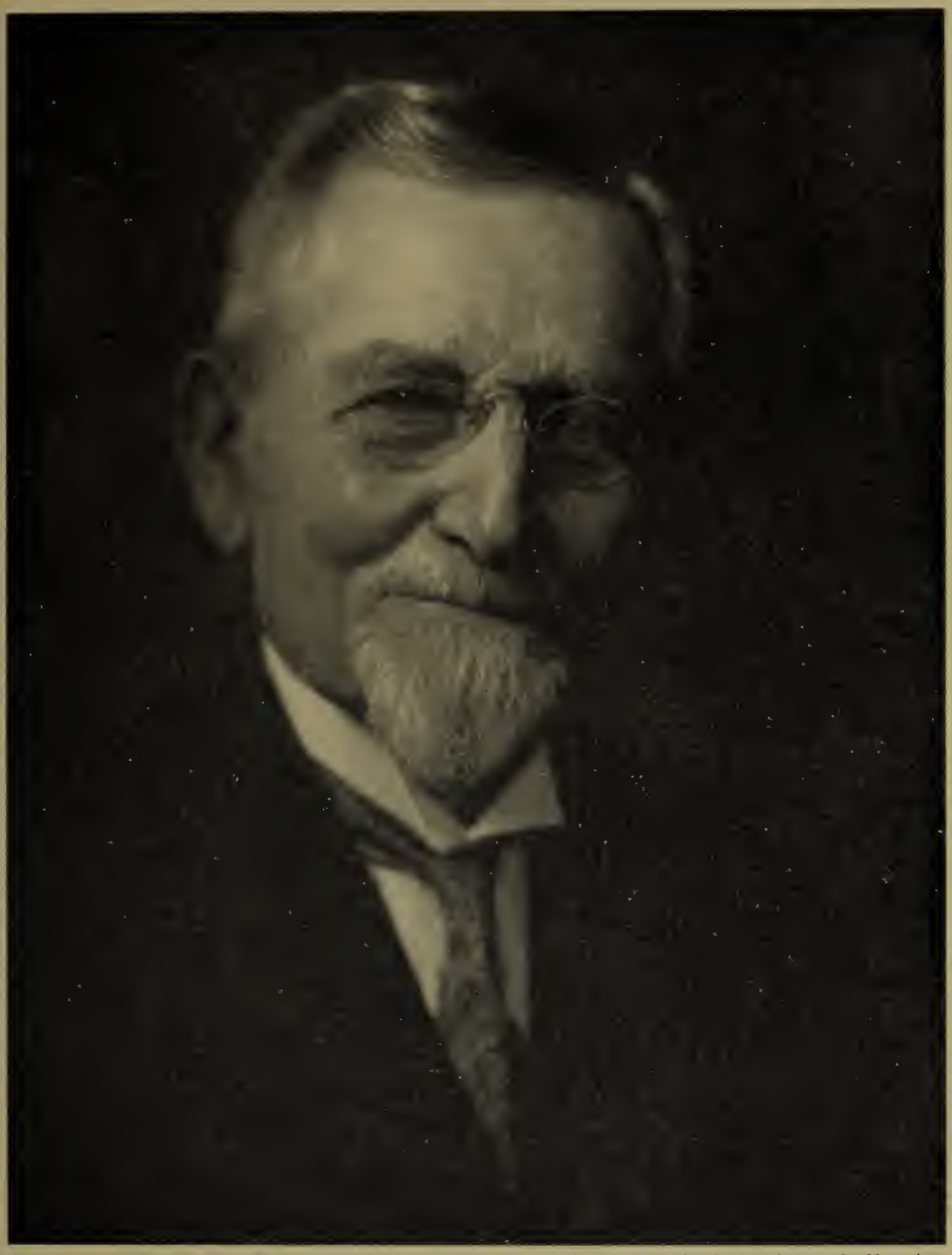
[68] *The Times-Herald*, June 6, 1940, pp. 4-C, 10-C; Heurich, p. 105.

[69] *The Times-Herald*, June 6, 1940, p. 11-C; Heurich, p. 107.

[70] Heurich, p. 115: "*ueber die schoene Feier hoert man allgemein noch jetzt Komplimente*" (at the present time one still hears generally compliments about the beautiful ceremony).

[71] Col. Bowler's mother, Mrs. Norma (Bowler) King, married for her second husband the distinguished Washington correspondent of *The Times* of London, Sir Willmott Lewis, K.B.E. (June 17, 1939).

[72] Original in the possession of Mrs. Evans (Jan King).



Harris and Ewing Photograph in the Columbia Historical Society Collection
Christian Heurich

Remember

the value of Time
the success of Perseverance
the pleasure of Working
the dignity of Simplicity
the worth of Character
the power of Kindness
the influence of Example
the obligation of Duty
the wisdom of Economy
the virtue of Patience
the improvement of Talent
the joy of Originating.

The source of these lines is unknown; they may have been composed by Mr. Heurich himself, or he may have read them in some work. However, they typify the credo by which he conducted his long and useful life.

The joy of living that was so characteristic of the Heurich household was tempered by sorrow and tragedy. The eldest daughter, Anna Marguerite, who was born in the mansion in 1903, died at the family's Bellevue Farm in Maryland nine months later. Mr. Heurich's brother-in-law, Captain Hermann Jacobsen, who had lived in Washington for many years died at 1908 N Street, N.W., May 8, 1903, aged 72. He was not long survived by his wife, Heurich's beloved sister, Elisabeth Adalinda, who was responsible for her famous brother's settlement in America; she died May 15, 1906, aged 66. She was born on November 23, 1839, and married Jacobsen in 1859.[73]

Mrs. Heurich's parents had also been residents of Washington for many years. Her father, Peter L. Keyser, first appeared in the city directories in 1888, as a physician at 2019 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., the house in which the Heurichs were married in 1899. Some years later, no longer listed as a physician, he resided with his wife, the former Laura Mueller, and his son, Carl S. Keyser, M.D., at 1218–19th Street, N.W., where he died on March 30, 1916. During his last years he was owner of The Rathskeller, a well-known saloon at 8th and E Streets, N.W. Mrs. Laura M. Keyser continued to live at the 19th Street address, where she died on January 15, 1927.[74]

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[73] Death notices: Hermann Jacobsen, *The Evening Star*, Sat. May 9, 1903, p. 5, and Elizabeth Adalinda Jacobsen, *The Washington Post*, Wed., May 16, 1906; obituary of Capt. Jacobsen in a German-language newspaper (undated clipping in the collections of Mrs. Evans); tombstone inscriptions, Oak Hill Cemetery, Georgetown, D. C.

[74] Obituary of Peter L. Keyser, *The Evening Star*, Fri., March 31, 1916; his Death Certificate (No. 22915R), Vital Statistics Section, Department of Public Health, Washington, D. C. (birthplace shown as "Germany"); tombstone inscriptions, Oak Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Heurich had one of those unpleasant experiences during World War I that was shared by so many American citizens of German birth. With his wife, three children, and sister-in-law, Augusta Keyser, he was traveling in Germany in 1914 when the war that destroyed the Old World broke out in all its fury. They returned to this country. In April 1917 the United States entered the war on the side of the Allies. Immediately, a dozen ridiculous stories were circulated about the German-born Mr. Heurich. It was said, for instance, that he had converted his Bellevue Farm into an arsenal where he concealed German cannon with which he planned to bombard Washington and destroy the Capitol. It was also rumored that his helpfulness to the Kaiser was such that he installed a wireless station on his Farm in order to convey vital information to the enemy. Mr. Heurich reported with amusement, in his autobiography, that the silly yarns about him came to an end when it was solemnly announced "that my humble self had committed suicide".[75] Needless to say, the story of his death was greatly exaggerated, for he lived another twenty-eight years.

Real tragedy struck the family in the Second World War. The Heurichs were traveling in Germany in 1939 when the upstart Austrian paperhanger, Adolf Hitler, launched his attack on Poland and thereby plunged the world into a holocaust worse than that of 1914–1918. Once again, they returned to the land of Mr. Heurich's adoption. Their son-in-law, Colonel Charles Bowler King, and his brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Ludlow King, were on the staff of Lieutenant-General Omar N. Bradley, commanding the American forces which invaded Normandy in 1944. They were on a field mission with others when a bursting shell scattered the group. All escaped, except Colonel Charles King. His brother Ludlow went back to look for him, when a shell exploded, bursting his eardrum.[76]

In 1886 Mr. Heurich purchased a tract of land near Hyattsville, in Prince George's County, Maryland. He increased his holdings until by 1940 he owned some 420 acres. To this property he gave the name Bellevue Farm.[77] Over the years the family spent many pleasant summer months here, although from time to time vacation periods were passed in Atlantic City and Cape May, interspersed,

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[75] Heurich, pp. 85–90, 97–98; anecdotes related by Mrs. Evans.

[76] *The Evening Star*, Wed., July 5, 1944, p. A-2; *The Washington Post*, Thurs., July 6, 1944, p. 1. Col. King's widow, Karla L. (Heurich) King, married secondly, Jan. 15, 1946, in Memorial Chapel, Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D. C., Brig. Gen. Eugene Lynch Harrison, who distinguished himself in the war.

[77] Heurich, pp. 28, 37; *The Times-Herald*, June 6, 1940, p. 6-C.

of course, by trips to all parts of the United States and to Europe. In fact, during his long lifetime, Mr. Heurich crossed the Atlantic Ocean no fewer than 73 times.

At Bellevue Dairy Farm, Inc. (the business name he gave to his farm) Mr. Heurich owned and bred Holstein-Friesian cattle which were duly registered in the *Holstein-Friesian Herd Book*. He became a member of The Holstein-Friesian Association of America in 1913.[78] The *Herd Book* registered "only those large, improved black-and-white cattle already registered in the Holstein, Dutch-Holstein, Holstein-Friesian, or the Western Holstein-Friesian Herd Books, and such as are descended from them in direct line, both as to sire and dam; and such imported animals, or their descendents, as are registered in the Netherland, or Friesian, or North-Holland Herd-Book".[79]

Mr. Heurich's prize-winning cattle, the bulls Fobes Homestead Moore 3d, Hengerveld De Freule Pontiac, De Freule Segis Pontiac, the cows Pauline Hengeveld Nephele, Queen Pauline Cornucopia Mercedes, Inka Pabst Canary and many others brought their owner fame as a cattleman. During the prohibition era, when he shut down the brewery, he spent much time and money developing his splendid stock at Bellevue. In later years, one of his bulls, Rollo Pontiac Burk Fayne, won the world's record for fat.

In 1913, when he joined The Holstein-Friesian Association of America, his superintendent at Bellevue Farm was R. L. Cone.[80] In 1940 the superintendent was Louis Dilger, former American Consul at Aix-la-Chapelle and son of Mr. Heurich's old friend, the late General Hubert Dilger, Austrian-born veteran of the American Civil War.[81] Frank Straker, a young Englishman from Yorkshire but a naturalized American with a Virginia wife, was Heurich's herdsman at Bellevue in 1940.

Bellevue Farm, which was located along University Drive, Colesville Road, Ager Road, and Riggs Road, was all rolling land. On one of the small elevations Mr. Heurich built a 15-room house which the family used as their summer home. From its rear windows the farm

[78] *The Holstein-Friesian Herd Book*, vol. XXXI (1913), p. 6; letter to Mr. Heurich from F. L. Houghton, Editor, *The Holstein-Friesian Register*, May 26, 1913 (found by the National Genealogical Society and turned over to the Columbia Historical Society).

[79] By-Laws of The Holstein-Friesian Association of America, Article IV, Section 6 (*Herd Book*, vol. XXXVII, 1917, p. 70).

[80] Letter to R. L. Cone, Supt., Bellevue Dairy Farm, from F. L. Houghton, Editor, *The Holstein-Friesian Register*, Nov. 29, 1913, in the archives of the Columbia Historical Society.

[81] Eric Dilger, another son of Gen. Dilger, was head of the bottling department of the Christian Heurich Brewing Co.

Photograph in the Columbia Historical Society Collection

Entrance Hall of the Heurich Mansion

spread in gently undulating sequences of work buildings, grazing fields, cultivated lands, and the comfortable homes of the Farm's two executives, Dilger and Straker. On the Farm he erected a massive stone mausoleum, guarded at each corner by life-size figures of angels. Here were shelterd the remains of his second wife, Mathilde, and his little daughter, Marguerite.[82]

Christian Heurich took an active interest in many organizations. He was a member of the Board of Trade and of the Chamber of Commerce in Washington. He was especially devoted to the charitable work of the German Orphans Home and The Christian and Eleonora Ruppert Home for Aged and Indigent Residents of the District of Columbia, and he served on the Board of Directors of both institutions. His interest in the history of the District of Columbia led him to join the Columbia Historical Society in 1903; in 1941, on his 99th birthday, he gave $1000 to the Society.[83] He became a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia and for some years prior to his death was one of the Vice-Presidents.

In 1900 Mr. Heurich was a member of the Committee on Finance of the vast organization which supervised the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Seat-of-Government in the District. The Christian Heurich Brewing Company subscribed $100 to the National Capital Centennial Fund.[84]

Two years later, on the occasion of the visit to Washington of His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of the German Emperor, Mr. Heurich served on the Prince Henry Festivities Committee of the German Central Verein, of which William L. Etterich was President. Under the auspices of this Society, some 800 Americans of German birth, led by a band and carrying lighted torches, marched to the German Embassy at 1435 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. and serenaded the royal visitor with such patriotic songs as *Das deutsche Lied, Die Wacht am Rhein,* and *The Star-Spangled Banner.*[85]

Mr. Heurich never lost interest in his old Thuringian homeland.

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[82] *The Times-Herald,* June 6, 1940, pp. 6-C, 9-C; same paper, Oct. 29, 1951 (collections of Mrs. Evans). An undated inventory of implements and furniture at the farm is in the archives of the Columbia Historical Society.

[83] *Records of the Columbia Historical Society,* vols. 7 (1904), p. 269, and 42–43 (1942), p. 274.

[84] *The Centennial Celebration of the Establishment of the Seat-of-Government in the District of Columbia* (1900), pp. 142, 212.

[85] *The Washington Post,* Feb. 26, 1902, p. 3, column 3, and March 1, 1902, p. 3, column 4; *The Evening Star* for the same dates.

His benefactions there are remembered to this day; Heurichstrasse, the street at Römhild named in his honor keeps his memory green. After a devastating fire hit Römhild in 1890, he donated 10,000 marks to assist in the work of reconstruction. He contributed heavily toward the erection in that town of a monument to his old teacher, Herr Rektor Jung, and he built there a *Volksbadeanstalt*, or public bathhouse. In 1929 he founded one of Römhild's most important institutions, the Steinburg Museum, where are preserved the archeological remains, extending back thousands of years, of the Thuringian region which Mr. Heurich loved so well. The 25th anniversary of the Museum's establishment by its American benefactor was celebrated in the spring of 1954. Mr. Heurich did not forget the place of his birth; he was instrumental in raising a volunteer fire-brigade and he built a children's home at Haina.[86]

The authorities in his native duchy of Saxe-Meiningen-and-Hildburghausen were deeply appreciative of Mr. Heurich's generosity and abiding interest in his former home. On two occasions, in 1905 and in 1912, Duke Georg II wished to confer on him a knighthood, which, "as a good American citizen I gladly renounce", Mr. Heurich wrote.[87]

Mr. Heurich accepted two honors which were not in conflict with his allegiance to the United States. In 1912 he became an Honorary Citizen of Römhild,[88] and subsequently he was elected an Honorary Member of the Red Cross at Haina.[89]

He was very proud of the fact that he was Römhild's first honorary citizen. The second one so honored was Field Marshal Paul Ludwig Han von Beneckendorff und von Hindenburg, Germany's mighty war hero and post-war President. In 1930 Mr. Heurich, by invitation of the Burgomaster of Römhild, was present at the military manoeuvers held there. President von Hindenburg, who reviewed the troops, took the opportunity to say to the distinguished American visitor: "*Wir sind ja Kollegen als Ehrenbürger dieses Städtchen*" (We are indeed colleagues, as Honorary Citizens of this little town).[90]

Two years later the President of the German Republic sent the following message to Mr. Heurich: "*Zur Vollendung Ihres 90sten*

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[86] Heurich, pp. 46, 64–70, 108–109; *Washington Journal*, Fri., March 26, 1954, p. 6, article entitled, "Das Heurich'sche Altertums-Museum in Thüringen ist 25 Jahre alt".

[87] Heurich, pp. 54, 64.

[88] *Ibid.*, p. 64.

[89] The original certificate is hanging in the German breakfast room in the Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion. It is undated; he was probably elected about 1922, as one of the signers, Richard Wuth, was pastor at Haina in 1922 (Heurich, p. 102).

[90] Heurich, p. 110.

Lebensjahres sende ich Ihnen in dankbarer Würdigung Ihrer treuen Anhänglichkeit an die alte Heimat herzliche Glückwünsche und die besten Grüssen" (On the completion of your 90th year, I send to you in grateful appreciation of your faithful devotion to the old homeland hearty good wishes and best greetings). In his reply to President von Hindenburg, Mr. Heurich wrote: "*Ja, mein Herz schlaegt fuer das alte Vaterland, doch die Pflicht gehoert den Vereinigten Staaten*" (Yes, my heart beats for the old Fatherland, nevertheless my duty is to the United States).[91]

During the last twelve years of his life, Mr. Heurich's energy, activity, and clear thinking made him appear to be indestructible. "Mr. Heurich is one of the vice presidents of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants," wrote Washington's leading historian, "and at nearly 91 gives every indication of being with us for some years to come. He is as straight as an arrow, still has a beard and a good suit of hair, which is still more black than white, and although he is not a regular attendant at the monthly meetings, yet rarely misses those of a patriotic character."[92]

In 1935 Ernest Durig, a well-known sculptor, made a bust of the 93-year-old brewer.[93] Twenty-two years later, a man passing the Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion happened to glance up at the window of the library of the Columbia Historical Society and spotted Mr. Heurich's bust. He knocked on the door and when it was opened by Mrs. Elden E. Billings, the Society's Librarian, he greeted her excitedly: "It's mine, it's mine, I made it!" "What's yours, what's yours, what did you make?" asked the astonished Mrs. Billings. It was Ernest Durig, who was thus reunited with his work of art after slightly more than two decades. He said that Mr. Heurich had sat between five and ten hours for the bust.[94]

Mr. Heurich always looked after his employees. In 1935 the Heurich Employees Association was formed. It paid sick and death benefits, had a picnic once a year, a party for all hands and their families at Christmas, and an annual stag smoker. In 1940 the Association's membership numbered 200. The brewery also operated for the benefit of the employees a Federal Credit Union. Assets by 1940 totalled $15,000, and loans aggregating $200,000 had been made.[95]

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[91] *Ibid.*, p. 116.

[92] John Clagett Proctor, "Gardens and Picnics in Old Wet Days", *The Sunday Star Magazine*, April 23, 1933, p. 6.

[93] *The Washington Post*, Wed., July 3, 1935, p. 2 (collections of Mrs. Evans).

[94] Undated clipping from *The Washington Post*, of about 1957 or 1958, in the collections of Mrs. Evans.

[95] *The Times-Herald*, June 6, 1940, p. 4-C.

Photograph in the Columbia Historical Society Collection

Memorial Fountain in the Heurich Mansion Conservatory

In 1938 President Theodore W. Noyes and Vice-President Christian Heurich of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia exchanged the following interesting letters:

1307 New Hampshire Ave.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Noyes!

Hardly will there be another citizen of Washington for sixty-six years, who at the age of ninety-five will congratulate an honorable citizen upon the eightieth anniversary of his birth.

It gives me much pleasure to be among your numerous friends and acquaintances to add my felicitations.

You have been one of our outstanding citizens and you deserve the sincerest and best wishes from all Washingtonians.

Mrs. Heurich joins me in extending to you our most heartiest congratulations and sincerest and best wishes for Health and Happiness through the coming years.

Very sincerely Yours,
(*Signed*) CHRISTIAN HEURICH[96]

The Evening Star—The Sunday Star
Washington, D. C.

February 23, 1938

Mr. Christian Heurich
1307 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C.
Dear Friend and Neighbor:

Your letter to me on my 80th birthday anniversary forms a unique chapter in my "Book of Remembrances". It is indeed a distinction at 80 years to receive from one who is 15 years my senior expressions of congratulation. Several of the letters I have received came from friends and contemporaries who have just passed or who are hoping yet to reach my own age level. Your letter comes from one who has passed it long ago and who can look down upon it from a still higher elevation.

Allow me to thank you for your congratulations by extending to you my own.

With best wishes to you,

Sincerely yours,
(*Signed*) THEODORE W. NOYES[97]

Two years later *The Times-Herald* for Thursday, June 6, 1940, in its Section C, devoted exclusively to "Honoring Christian Heurich", called attention to another interesting item in this remarkable

[96] Public Library of the District of Columbia, Washingtoniana Division, Theodore W. Noyes Collections, vol. 41, p. 104.

[97] *Ibid.*, vol. 37, p. 104.

man's family. One story was headlined, "80, Works For His Uncle Who Is 98". It was a story about his nephew, Charles Jacobsen, who, at the age of 80, was still as active as the 98-year-old uncle.

Mr. Heurich always made himself out to be a year older than he was. He held that a person's first birthday was at birth. Thus, in 1941, when he was interviewed on the occasion of his ninety-ninth birthday, he claimed to have reached the century mark. "There are many reasons why I have attained this age," he remarked, "and work is No. 1. I have toiled like six grown men all my life, lived frugally and have always been able to see the bright spots. . . . I'm not nearly finished with this life yet. I still have my health—that is most important." He also remarked as he beamed at his wife: "I have married no less than three times and been engaged six, but you are the best of them all."[98]

Many honors came his way when actually he attained the century mark. *The American-German Review*, published by the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, Inc., of Philadelphia, to the work of which he had given "sympathetic support . . . during the past twelve years," editorialized in its August 1942 issue:

> His mind is unaffected by his advanced age; he plays cards with his friends and cracks jokes and still attends to business matters as if he were a much younger man. He has encouraged the study and care of the German cultural tradition, language, talents, history, for generations. He is a peace-loving, unassuming man, with a heart of sunshine, humor, humanity, democracy and American patriotism. He has given freely for hundreds of good purposes, with a passion for liberty and justice. He finds in America his home and inspiration; by sympathy and intellect, by labor and science, he has become a real American who may serve as a model of moral wealth and sturdy character, a conqueror of the practical difficulties of existence. . . .

On September 2, 1942, the Association of Oldest Inhabitants paid high honors to its venerable vice-president. In the absence of President Noyes, Vice-President John Clagett Proctor presided. In his response to the eulogy delivered by Charles H. Bates, Mr. Heurich reviewed briefly the progress made by civilization during his century-long life. He pronounced the radio to be the greatest of all inventions. "It is a great news carrier and we can have intercourse with the whole world in a few minutes. It can give us so much pleasure by broadcasting good music, we can enjoy our finest musicians, our finest singers, we can have our greatest scientists, physi-

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[98] *The Times-Herald*, Sept. 9, 1941.

cians, lawyers talk to us in our homes. . . ."[99] On this occasion Mr. Proctor read a poem he had composed in Mr. Heurich's honor, of which the last three verses are:[100]

He helped to make this city grow,
And helped to build it too,
His charities are numerous
And matched by very few.

His wife and children here were born,
And here, no doubt, he'll die
And rest beneath the sod until
He's called to rest on high.

But, Lord, preserve him for awhile—
A decade more, or so—
For sterling citizens like he
Are needed here below.

A few days later he added a Postscript:

You ask why he's lived so long?
It's Mrs. Heurich's smile—
Her sunny personality,
That would a saint beguile.

She never lets Chris. get the dumps,
She drives away the blues,
She only talks of pleasant things,
And discord she taboos.

And so, good friends, if you would live
At least a century—
A wife like Mrs. Heurich will
Supply the recipe.

Mrs. Heurich indeed watched over her husband with care. He used to go horseback riding until he had an accident, when, fearful of a more serious mishap, she put a stop to this practice. She was vigilant where his health and well-being were concerned, and it speaks highly of their regard for each other that he heeded her warnings.[101]

A party was given in honor of his 100th birthday on September 12, 1942, when a scroll signed by 215 employes, with the names of 16 of his employes in the Armed Forces printed at the bottom, was presented to him.[102] It was in an interview with a newspaper re-

[99] Charles H. Bates, "Christian Heurich: The Man and His Times", with Mr. Heurich's response. (Collections of Mrs. Evans.)

[100] John Clagett Proctor, *Proctor's Poems* (1950), p. 69.

[101] Information from their granddaughter, Mrs. Evans.

[102] Full-page reproduction of the scroll in *The Times-Herald*, Sept. 12, 1942, p. 31.

porter on this occasion that he pronounced his famous formula for longevity: "Practice moderation and drink Heurich's beer".[103] In the following month *The Brewers' Digest* added its tribute:[104]

> The Heurich Brewery, in addition to being one of the oldest breweries in the county, also holds the record for continuous leadership and management by one man.
>
> There is no question but that Christian Heurich is entitled to the distinction of being the oldest active brewer in the world.
>
> The brewing plant which he founded has been built up to a point where the annual production is now rated at 300,000 barrels a year.

Until the very end of his life Mr. Heurich followed the same routine. He was at his office at 8:15 or 8:30 every morning for an hour or so, looking over the books and signing papers. He went home to 1307 New Hampshire Avenue for a rest in the garden, weather permitting. He would have dinner, followed by a nap, and then he would read for awhile. "The mansion on New Hampshire Avenue is almost literally lined with books—hundreds upon hundreds of them," wrote a newspaper reporter in 1940, "and every one of them has been read from cover to cover by this extraordinary almost-centenarian. Leon Trotsky's side of the Russian Revolution lay on the library table; near by was an atlas, open on a modern map of the Soviet Republics, for Mr. Heurich, as he read, had been checking Mr. Trotsky for truth or falsity and in the interests of his own research."[105] Every Wednesday and Sunday evenings he played a German card game called skat; he had had the same partners for thirty years. Bedtime was usually 9:30 p.m.

Death, caused by acute bronchitis and exhaustion, at last came to the veteran Washington business man in his home on March 7, 1945. He was attended at the end by his physicians, his brother-in-law, Dr. Carl S. Keyser, and Dr. Frederick Morhart. The funeral was held March 10, 1945, Rev. Charles Enders, pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church, officiating. Interment was in the family mausoleum on Bellevue Farm.

Mr. Heurich made his last will and testament on May 25, 1938; it was proved April 17, 1945. He bequeathed to his wife, Amelia L. Heurich, the property distinguished on the ground plats or plans of the City of Washington as lot no. 79[106] in Square 115, "and which is

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[103] The Washington Post, Sat., Sept. 12, 1942, p. A-4.

[104] *The Brewers' Digest*, vol. XVII (Oct. 1942), p. 57.

[105] *The Times-Herald*, June 6, 1940, p. 2-C.

[106] On October 20, 1902, Christian Heurich combined lots 30 to 38, Square 115, into lot 79. (Records of the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia, Liber 27, folio 107.)

my family residence and is locally designated as No. 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, Northwest." To the German Orphans Home and The Christian and Eleonora Ruppert Home for Aged and Indigent Residents of the District of Columbia he gave $100,000 each. Trust funds were set up for his wife and his three children.[107]

After Mr. Heurich's death his son, Christian, Jr., and his son-in-law, Charles E. Eckles, became President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Christian Heurich Brewing Company, and Mrs. Heurich, Sr. was added to the Board of Directors. In 1947 the firm made "Old Georgetown" beer and promoted it instead of the historic "Senate" beer. In 1955 a lager, "the beer my father used to make," was introduced.

A combination of circumstances forced the closing of the brewery, namely, competition with the national brewing companies, and the Government's decision to take over the Heurich property for the approaches to the proposed Theodore Roosevelt Bridge across the Potomac and the right of way for the proposed Interloop Expressway. The brewery closed its doors for the last time at the end of January 1956. The fortress-like building in the area once called "Foggy Bottom" remained standing until early in 1962, when it was demolished to make way for the new improvements.[108] The last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Christian Heurich Brewing Company was held on July 26, 1962, when the process of liquidation was completed.

The Heurich family had already disposed of its Maryland property as a result of the spectacular population growth in the Washington area. On December 27, 1951, Bellevue Farm, once the pride of Christian Heurich, Sr., was sold to Contee Sand and Gravel Company, Inc., of Laurel, Maryland, for a sum in excess of $1,000,000. During the next few years the vast acres of rolling land were transformed into one of the best planned urban centers in the metropolitan area. The entire tract was methodically divided into portions of varying sizes to accommodate apartment houses, stores, schools, churches, office buildings, and a library. Northwestern High School

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[107] Last will and testament of Christian Heurich (No. 65177), Office of the Register of Wills, Washington, D. C.

[108] As the demolition proceedings commenced, Mrs. Elden E. Billings visited the brewery and rescued from it a number of interesting signs advertising Heurich's beer; they are now in the German breakfast room of the Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion. Mr. Heurich's granddaughter's husband, Benjamin C. Evans, Jr., a Foreign Service officer now detailed to the Department of State, also visited the plant and rescued the 1896–1899 scrapbook that has been cited frequently in our notes.

is located on thirty acres on Colesville Road in the northeast corner of the tract. On March 12, 1959, the Prince Georges Plaza shopping center was opened on 52 acres of the Heurich tract on East-West Highway at Queens Chapel and Colesville Roads.[109]

When the family sold Bellevue Farm, the great mausoleum was dismantled, stone by stone, and reconstructed in Rock Creek Cemetery, where it stands today as a permanent monument to a leading Washington family.

At about the time the decision to close the Heurich brewery was reached, Mrs. Christian Heurich, Sr. was evolving a plan to establish a memorial to her husband. On April 19, 1955, a deed was drawn up between Amelia L. Heurich, of the City of Washington, party of the first part, and the Columbia Historical Society, a Corporation of the District of Columbia, party of the second part; the principal provisions of this instrument are:[110]

> WHEREAS my late husband, CHRISTIAN HEURICH, who lived to be One Hundred and Two (102) years of age, had lived a long and useful life as a leading citizen in the District of Columbia, which he dearly loved, and to whose charities he generously contributed; and
>
> WHEREAS, he founded and conducted the Brewery bearing his name which has been a familiar and honored part of the Washington scene for many than Eighty (80) years; and
>
> WHEREAS he was greatly interested in the culture and life of the City of Washington, and during his sojourn there, he participated in and came to see a large part of its history in the making; and
>
> WHEREAS it seems fitting and proper that the COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, whose principal interest lies in the History of the District of Columbia should be the beneficiary of the house and lot in which he made his home for many years with his wife and with his three children,
>
> WITNESSETH that in consideration of the sum of Ten ($10.00) Dollars, the party of the first part does grant unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns, in fee simple, all that piece or parcel of land in the District of Columbia described as follows:
>
> Lot 79 in CHRISTIAN HEURICH'S SUBDIVISION of Lots 30 to 38 in Square 115 as recorded in Liber 27, folio 107 of the Records of the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia, reserving, however, to the party hereto of the first part an estate for and during her natural life, together with the improvements, rights, privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging, as a memorial to CHRISTIAN HEURICH. . . ."

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[109] *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, vol. 51–52 (1955), p. 179; Hal Willard, "Spectacular Development Marks Heurich Tract Transition", *The Washington Post and Times-Herald*, Jan. 3, 1959; *The Evening Star*, Wed., March 11, 1959, p. C-6.

[110] Liber 10423, folios 178–181, Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D. C.

The deed was witnessed by the grantor's son-in-law, Charles E. Eckles. It was recorded at 9:27 a.m., May 10, 1955.

In a ceremony held in the house on May 4, 1955, Mrs. Heurich formally presented the deed to Major-General U. S. Grant, 3rd, President of the Columbia Historical Society.[111]

Mrs. Heurich, who belonged to a number of organizations, including the Washington Club, the Arts Club, the Columbia Historical Society, and the Columbia Country Club, died at her home on January 24, 1956, at the age of 89. Her funeral services were held in the mansion two days later, and she was laid to rest in the family mausoleum in Rock Creek Cemetery.[112]

The vault, with its guardian angels standing at the four corners, has places for twelve bodies, six on either side. Thus far, only four persons are buried there: Christian Heurich, Sr., his second wife, Mathilde, his third wife, Amelia, and his infant daughter, Anna Marguerite. As one peers through the door one sees on the back wall, cut in large letters, the following inscription: "*In Tiefem Schmerz, Keine Weltweisheit Fürs Herz* (In profound sorrow, no worldy wisdom for the heart).

Mr. Heurich's first wife, Amelia, still sleeps in Oak Hill Cemetery, in Georgetown; her remains were never removed to the family vault.

In due time, after various legal formalities had been complied with, The Columbia Historical Society took possession of the house under the terms of Mrs. Heurich's 1955 deed. It bears the proud title, The Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion. Here are preserved not only the treasures that made the Heurich family life so comfortable, but papers, publications, and relics relating to the history, the life, the people of the District of Columbia. In addition to The Columbia Historical Society, seven other organizations now have their headquarters in the Mansion, namely: the National Genealogical Society, the American Peace Society, the Huguenot Society of Washington, the District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Aztec Club of 1847, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and the National Society of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America.

Very few changes have been made in the house. Mr. Heurich's office was in the room now occupied by the American Peace Society. When the Columbia Historical Society took possession, the recep-

[111] *The Evening Star*, Wed., May 4, 1955.

[112] *The Washington Post and Times-Herald*, Jan. 25, 1956, p. 28; *The Evening Star*, Jan. 25, 1956, p. A-28.

tion room, on the left as one enters the Mansion, was converted into an office for the Society. To this room was moved, from Mr. Heurich's former office, a massive secretary desk more than ten feet high with roll tops, a bookcase, and secret cabinets. It was built in 1872 by F. E. Schultz & Sons, and was intended for President Grant. The builder is said to have gone bankrupt while waiting for Congress to purchase it for the President. At any rate, Mr. Heurich later acquired it at an auction. In 1955, when Mrs. Heurich presented the deed to The Columbia Historical Society, she expressed pleasure that the "General Grant desk", as it was called, was at last going to a General Grant—the President of The Columbia Historical Society, grandson of the general for whom the desk was built.

Hanging on the wall of The Columbia Historical Society's office are large framed portraits of Christian and Amelia Louise (Keyser) Heurich; they were made by Harris and Ewing, Washington photographers who have preserved likenesses of the world's great personages. In the frieze around the walls of the office, near the top, are (from the left, as one enters the room) medallions depicting the world's great writers and thinkers: Homer, Raphael, Washington, Shakespeare, Dante, Goethe, Longfellow, and von Humboldt. They are emblematic of the cultural interests of Mr. and Mrs. Heurich.

The Columbia Historical Society's intention to fulfill Mrs. Heurich's wish that The Christian Heurich Memorial Mansion serve as a permanent reminder of her husband's contributions to the life and development of the Nation's Capital is exemplified by a letter written on May 19, 1956, to Christian Heurich, Jr., from the Society's President, Major-General U. S. Grant, 3rd: "We all feel that your Mother's and Father's house should be preserved as the last existing outstanding example of what an immigrant boy with brains and character could do in this land of opportunity, in a way an inspiration to others and a lesson in American history."

JAN 81
N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA 46962